

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8626

C O N F I D E N T I A L BRUSSELS 17032

USEEC

EUR/RPE ALSO FOR AMBASSADOR HINTON

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: EEC, OVID
SUBJECT: EC COMMISSIONER NATALI INTERESTED IN VISITING
WASHINGTON LATER THIS MONTH

1. SEPTEMBER 7 PENSA, EC COMMISSIONER NATALI'S
CHEF DE CABINET, CALLED POL COUNSELOR TO SAY THAT NATALI,
WHO HAS NOT BEEN TO WASHINGTON SINCE BECOMING
COMMISSIONER, WOULD LIKE, IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, TO VISIT
WASHINGTON FOR MAXIMUM OF ONE WEEK DURING PERIOD
SEPTEMBER 27-OCTOBER 6. PENSA SAID NATALI RECOGNIZES
THIS IS SHORT NOTICE, BUT THAT FROM OCTOBER 6 THROUGH END
OF YEAR HIS SCHEDULE WILL BE EXTREMELY TIGHT BECAUSE
OF EC ENLARGEMENT NEGOTIATIONS.

2. PENSA SAID NATALI'S MAIN OBJECTIVE IN WASHINGTON
WOULD BE TO EXCHANGE IDEAS WITH U.S. OFFICIALS ON THE NEW
ROLE IN THE WORLD OF AN ENLARGED EC , AND US-EC
RELATIONS IN THAT CONTEXT. NATALI IS ALSO INTERESTED
IN DISCUSSING WITH U.S. EXECUTIVE BRANCH AND CONGRESS
THE IMPLICATIONS FOR EUROPE OF THE APPROACHING DIRECT
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ELECTIONS TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT. ACCORDING TO PENSA,
DURING HIS WASHINGTON VISIT, NATALI WOULD HOPE TO BE
RECEIVED AT THE "POLITICAL LEVEL".

3. IN ADDITION TO HIS RESPONSIBILITY FOR THE ENLARGEMENT
NEGOTIATIONS AND DIRECT ELECTIONS, NATALI IS ALSO THE
COMMISSIONER RESPONSIBLE FOR ENVIRONMENTAL AFFAIRS.

PENSA THOUGHT THAT IN VIEW OF EPA ADMINISTRATOR COSTLE'S PLANNED VISIT HERE OCTOBER 16, NATALI WOULD NOT WISH TO SPEND MUCH TIME ON ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS IN WASHINGTON, ALTHOUGH PENSA SPECULATED THAT A COURTESY CALL ON COSTLE MIGHT BE APPROPRIATE.

4. ON PERSONAL BASIS,

POLITICAL COUNSELOR RESPONDED: (A) U.S. GOVERNMENT WOULD BE PLEASED TO HAVE NATALI VISIT WASHINGTON AT A MUTUALLY CONVENIENT TIME; (B) PROPOSED LATE SEPTEMBER-EARLY OCTOBER VISIT PROVIDES SHORT LEAD-TIME, AS PENSA HAD NOTED, BUT IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT A USEFUL PROGRAM OF DISCUSSIONS COULD BE SET UP WITHIN THAT TIME-FRAME, AND THE MISSION WOULD EXPLORE THE MATTER WITH THE DEPARTMENT, AND (C) HE DID NOT KNOW WHETHER, PARTICULARLY GIVEN SHORT LEAD-TIME NATALI COULD BE RECEIVED AT THE "POLITICAL LEVEL", BUT THE MISSION WOULD ASK WASHINGTON TO CONSIDER THE IDEA FAVORABLY.

5. PLEASE ADVISE ON HOW WE SHOULD RESPOND TO NATALI/
PENSA. MCCARTHY

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